



**WILLIAM ROCKHILL
NELSON GALLERY OF
ART and MARY ATKINS
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

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GALLERY NEWS

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DECEMBER 1943

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Ten years ago, on December 11, 1933, the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery and Atkins Museum first opened its doors and invited Kansas City and all her neighbors to enjoy and use the great collection and the fine building which the generosity of William Rockhill Nelson, Mrs. Atkins and Mr. Nelson's family had made possible. That they used these things is attested by the attendance figures which show that almost one and three-quarters million persons have passed through its doors in that time. That they have appreciated and enjoyed them is also amply attested by the splendid cooperation and assistance given on every hand, by gifts to the collection, the library, volunteer assistance and the general spirit of good will and friendship toward all concerned with the administration of the Gallery.

The Trustees and Staff wish to express their appreciation for these gifts, both tangible and intangible, without which the first decade could not have been a success, by inviting you to join with us in an Open House at the Gallery on the evening of Friday, December 10, from 7:30 until 10 P.M. A program will be given in the Atkins Auditorium at eight o'clock, at which time Mr Harold Woodbury Parsons of New York, European advisor to the Gallery, will review Ten Years of Collecting. At that time, also, there will be a formal presentation of the Tenth Anniversary Gift of the Friends of Art. Immediately following the program in the auditorium, and continuing until ten o'clock, there will be music in Kirkwood Hall by a string ensemble made up of musicians from the Kansas City Philharmonic.

In honor of the occasion, all those objects which have been acquired since the opening of the Gallery have been especially labeled, using a different color for each year of the decade. It will doubtless be as surprising to visitors as it was even to the Staff, who have been so closely associated with it, to realize that

almost 4,000 separate objects have come into the collection either by purchase or gift. Special attention is called to the Classical Department, the Renaissance Sculpture Gallery, Gallery 18 and the Oriental Section where a number of surprises will await the visitor.

The entire week, beginning Friday evening, December 10th and running through Friday, December 17, has been designated as Anniversary Week and there will be no admission charge to the Gallery during that time.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION: PRE-COLUMBIAN ART OF THE AMERICAS and CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN PAINTING. In recognition of the growing spirit of unity among the Americas and the need for furthering it, the Tenth Anniversary Exhibition will be devoted on the one hand to the products of the great civilizations which flourished here before the coming of Columbus and on the other to works of art being produced today by our neighbors to the South. The exhibition opening on Sunday, December 5th will also serve the purpose of illustrating the Wednesday Evening Lecture Series on the "Art of the Americas".

The North Loan Gallery will exhibit the Pre-Columbian material, those strange and beautiful expressions of the artistic genius of the peoples of Peru, Middle America, Mexico and our own Southwest, produced by an indigenous culture, uninfluenced by the Old World. Especially important is the group of Peruvian Textiles lent by Mr. John Wise of New York and carefully chosen by him to illustrate the wide range of techniques used by these weavers of the Andean area more than a thousand years ago. In excellence of spinning, control of material and appreciation of the possibilities of weaving as an artistic medium, the fabrics of ancient Peru have never been surpassed.

Working with stone against stone, the peoples

of the Valley of Mexico and the Mayas of Yucatan achieved sculptures which range from the monumental to the minute, finished with unbelievable skill and precision. Fine examples from both classes have been lent to the exhibition by Mr. Joseph Brummer of New York and Mr. Earl L. Stendahl of Los Angeles. Included also are potteries which demonstrate equal ability in plastic materials.

An unusually interesting group of shell carvings has been lent by Mr. Harry M. Trowbridge, through the courtesy of the Kansas City Museum. Excavated at Spiro, Oklahoma, they represent the great Mound Builder civilization of North America and offer an opportunity to make comparison and contrasts with contemporary neighbors to the South, as well as with the fine shell carving from Alaska, lent by Mr. Brummer.

The Gallery has from time to time exhibited work from various Latin-American countries, but the Tenth Anniversary show is the first comprehensive showing of this kind and for it we are indebted to the Museum of Modern Art, whose collection is the most important in the world. For some time, this museum felt that to too many people in the United States, Diego Rivera represented all of Latin American art. To remedy this, last year an Inter-American fund was established making possible a collection that is not matched by any single country to the South. As Director Alfred H. Barr of the Museum of Modern Art puts it, "We are dropping those blinders in cultural understanding which have kept the eyes of all the American republics fixed on Europe with scarcely a side-glance at each other during the past century and a half."

This exhibition shows the variety and quality of Latin American painting ranging from realistic portraits to abstract surrealist compositions. Many of the pictures have a special interest because they are concerned with the people and background of the countries which

produced them. A humble funeral procession in Peru, a Cuban tornado with chairs and horses hurtling through the air, a newly rich Mexican supervising the building of his gaudy suburban villa, the magnificent mountains of Columbia, a Brazilian holiday; all the warmth and color of these lands are depicted.

Amid this exciting survey of a hemisphere's artistic coming-of-age, the visitor will discover familiar names, for all have had work exhibited here in the Gallery's first ten years, of such great artists as Pettoruti of Argentina, Portinari of Brazil and Rivera, Orozco, Siqueiros and Galvan of Mexico.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH: The major acquisition among the numerous works of art acquired by the Trustees of the Gallery in celebration of the Tenth Anniversary is a pair of magnificent stained and painted glass windows, made at Troyes, France, in the latter part of the 15th C. This glorious example of the glazier's art is intact, a fact which adds greatly to its importance. Most ancient stained glass windows which have left Europe have suffered extensively in the course of the centuries since they were made and are considerably repaired.

Removed half a century ago from a private chapel near Troyes, these panels were for many years prized possessions of the late Monsieur B. Bideaux, a French savant and writer on Medieval Art and a private collector of note. The two panels each measure 8'6-1/2" in height; 4'11" in width. Each is divided into four superimposed compartments with representations of Saints with identifying scrolls to each compartment. The clear colors range through a varied gamut of reds, yellows, blues and greens. The figures stand in great clarity against a delicate diapered background of yellow and grisaille.

The panels will be shown during the Tenth Anniversary Month in Gallery 14.

GALLERY XXIV: The Chinese Theatre steps forward as a celebration motif in Gallery 24 beginning December 1st. Against three lighted screens appear handsome examples of that native Chinese innovation, the shadow puppet. These figures in a variety of elaborately conceived costumes are lent to the Gallery by Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Starkey Aldrich. Scenes from the best known Chinese dramas are depicted in the group of modern paintings which Mrs. Harry Hussey has lent to the show.

One may read translations of these illustrated play in "Famous Chinese Plays" by Arlington and Acton, a book now in the Gallery library through gift of Mrs. Massey Holmes. The exhibition is completed by two theatrical robes from the permanent collection. One robe, a warrior's costume from the Imperial Ch'ien Lung Theatre, is a recent acquisition shown for the first time.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: On December 8th, the survey of the Maya civilization will be concluded by the showing of a technicolor film, "The Monuments of Ancient Mexico"

On December 15th, Miss Jackson will discuss the art of those peoples who inhabited central Mexico before the rise of the Aztec power.

There will be no lectures on December 22nd or 29th, but the series will be resumed on January 3rd when Miss Jackson will lecture on the Aztecs.

FRIENDS OF ART: The annual meeting of the Friends of Art will be held on Friday evening, December 3rd at eight o'clock. At this time, the members will vote on the purchase to be made for this year for presentation to the Friends of Art Collection of the Gallery. The paintings by contemporary American painters which have been chosen by the selections committee, are now on exhibition in Gallery 30.

MOTION PICTURES:

An English motion picture, "The Lady Vanishes" will be presented on Friday evening, December 3rd. We have had numerous requests for this famous picture which is directed by Alfred Hitchcock and features Paul Lukas and Dame May Whitty.

On Sunday afternoon, the 5th, one of France's pre-war contributions to the modern motion picture will be shown; "Maria Chapdelaine", an epic of the French Canadian people was written by Louis Hemon and directed by Julien Duvivier and features Madeleine Renaud and Jean Gabin. Another French film of great importance will be shown on Sunday, January 2nd. "Katia" is the story of young Princess Catherine Dolgoruki whose romance with Emperor Alexander II of Russia was one of the most interesting of modern times. Danielle Darrieux plays Princess Catherine and John Loder fills the role of Alexander with his usual charm and ability.

MUSICAL PROGRAMS:

A number of interesting musical programs are planned for the month of December. Friday evening, December 10th, will be devoted to the ceremonies celebrating the Gallery's tenth Anniversary with music in Kirkwood Hall. On Monday evening, December 13th, the Gallery will present Dean Allen Verhines, pianist, who returns to Kansas City for a brief visit. Mr. Verhines will play here just prior to his Town Hall recital in New York City. Included on the program will be the Tocatta in C minor by J. S. Bach; Beethoven's C minor Variations and Griffes' "Lake at Evening" a composition that Mr. Verhines does with particular grace and beauty.

The final Friday evening program before the Christmas holidays will be on December 17th when Dorothy Perkins presents pupils in a most

interesting dance program.

A complete listing of all programs will be given in the calendar. There will be no programs on December 24th, 26th and 31st.

JUNIOR EDUCATION:

There will be three Saturday afternoon programs for children during December. On the fourth, we will show Alfred Hitchcock's English film, "The Lady Vanishes". The following week another motion picture, "Alice in Wonderland", will be featured. In conjunction with this film, a short program of Mexican dances and songs will be presented by the boys and girls from Guadalupe Center.

On Saturday afternoon, December 18th, the Junior League Children's Theatre will present the marionette play "The Christmas Clock" under the direction of Mrs. J.I. Franklin. These free programs will all start at 2:30 P.M. This will be the last entertainment for children until activities are resumed after the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

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The Trustees and Staff feel sure that friends of the Gallery will wish to join with us in expressing their regret that it is not possible for Major Paul Gardner and Captain Laurence Sickman to be present on this rather special occasion of the Tenth Anniversary. The success and reputation of the Gallery in this decade is the result of their knowledge, ability and untiring efforts. Dispatches in the press have made public the important work that Major Gardner is now doing in the liberated provinces of Italy; Captain Sickman is in England as Intelligence Officer with the Army Air Forces. That same knowledge and ability is now serving to preserve a way of life which has made such institutions as the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery and Atkins Museum possible.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Wed.,	1	-	8:00	-	Lecture - North Mayan Art, Miss Jackson
Fri.,	3	-	7:45	-	Talk - Gallery 24 - Shadow Puppets, Miss Hughes
"	3	-	8:00	-	Library - Annual Meeting of The Friends of Art
"	3	-	8:00	-	Motion Picture - "The Lady Vanishes"
Sat.	4	-	2:30	-	Motion Picture - "The Lady Vanishes"
Sun.	5	-	3:30	-	Motion Picture - "Maria Chapdelaine"
Tues.	7	-	2:00	-	Library - Asiatic Study Club
Wed.	8	-	1:00	-	Library - Athena Delphians
"	8	-	8:00	-	Motion Picture - "Monuments of Ancient Mexico"
Fri.	10	-	7:30	-	Tenth Anniversary Celebrat- ion - Talk by Mr. H.W. Par- sons and Music
Sat.	11	-	2:30	-	Motion Picture - "Alice in Wonderland"
Sun.	12	-	3:30	-	Concert - Pupils of Bertha Hornaday.
Mon.	13	-	8:15	-	Concert - Dean Allen Verhines
Tues.	14	-	10:00	-	Library - Book Club
"	14	-	10:00	-	Lounge - Corinna Delphians
"	14	-	1:00	-	Library - Art Study Club
Wed.	15	-	8:00	-	Lecture - Pre-Aztec Art, Miss Jackson
Fri.	17	-	7:45	-	Talk - Gallery 20 - Latin American Art, Miss Jackson
"	17	-	8:15	-	Pupils of Dorothy Perkins
Sat.	18	-	2:30	-	Marionette Play - "The Christmas Clock", Junior League Children's Theatre
Sun.	19	-	3:30	-	Concert - Pupils of Mrs. Paul Willson and Della Willson
Tues.	21	-	2:00	-	Library - Asiatic Study Club
Wed.	22	-	NO EVENING OPENING		
Fri.	24	-	NO EVENING OPENING		
Sat.	25	-	GALLERY CLOSED ALL DAY CHRISTMAS		
Sun.	26	-	Gallery open but no program		
Wed.	29	-	NO EVENING OPENING		
Fri.	31	-	NO EVENING OPENING		
Sat. Jan.	1	-	GALLERY CLOSED ALL DAY		
Sun.	"	2	-	3:30	- Motion Picture, "Katia"

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KANSAS CITY 2, MO.

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Wed., 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.; 7 p. m. to 10 p. m.

Friday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.; 7:30 p. m. to 10 p. m.

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